

Sports
Pacquiao signs up with American manager for March 9 bout

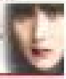
Business / B3
California firm buys RP call center for P200M

Lifestyle / C1
Fashion gets workout in tennis bringing chic to sweat



Business / B1
'New breed' of mining firms lauded for making RP investment hot spot

Entertainment
Sampaguita, '70s rock goddess, now a domestic diva



Pope recovering well, says top Vatican official

Ehem! 'Saints' attend seminar on corruption



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, February 4, 2005

Credit rating cut ruled out



Giant British bank bullish on RP economy

'Top cops protecting ex-NBI agent'



FACES OF POVERTY

Rice rations yield '100-percent class attendance, weight gain'

We passed tax bills, where's the pork? solon demands

Bush applauded 61 times in 53 minutes



9 survivors rescued 38 days after tsunami on remote island

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Big-time loggers charged

By Philip C. Tubeza

Pinoys live high-risk lifestyles, says survey

Cops say they're close to solving Pagadian slay

'Tight case'



Senators won't do the Cha-cha

By Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana

DON'T expect the Senate to dance to the House's cha-cha tune at this time.

Reacting to a recent House committee move to place Charter change in the chamber's agenda, Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday said the Senate's legislative calendar did not include taking up the proposal to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"We are prioritizing what we think are solutions to our economic problems," Drilon said in Filipino.

He said the senators were busy with discussions on the proposed 2005 national budget as well as revenue-raising and deficit-reducing measures.

He noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted Congress to approve the tax measures designed to cope with the country's fiscal problems.

Earlier this week, the House committee on constitutional amendments passed a proposal for a resolution calling for House and Senate members to constitute themselves into a constituent assembly to introduce and approve changes to the Constitution.

The move was immediately assailed by administration Senators Joker Arroyo and Miriam Defensor-Santiago who questioned the timing of the proposal when senators were busy deliberating on the bill to increase the value-added tax rate.

The constituent assembly proposal needs to go through the Senate for approval.

Malacañang advised the House members to postpone deliberations on Charter change until after all proposed tax measures aimed at solving the country's fiscal problems were passed.

Yesterday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the congressmen did not even need to wait for the one-year moratorium against all Charter change talk to lapse before tackling Cha-cha for as long as they deliver the measures needed to reach the P80 billion additional revenue target.

Only after those tax measures are passed can they consider political legislation like Cha-cha, Ermita said.

In July 2004, the President, Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia agreed to shelve the issue of Charter change to concentrate on needed legislation to contain the budget deficit.

Ermita said Ms Arroyo would convene a meeting of the joint Legislative-Executive Advisory Council when she believes the P80 billion target was capable of being met.

Presidential Adviser Gabriel Claudio, who acts as Malacañang's legislative liaison, said the Palace was not even looking anymore at how many of the eight tax measures it submitted can be passed but on the amount that can be raised from whatever measures are approved.

Claudio said the Palace was hoping that the VAT bill, which is expected to bring in the bulk of the targeted P80 billion, can be passed before Congress breaks for Lent on March 19.

But he said it would be premature to speculate that deliberations on the Cha-cha can start as soon as the VAT measure is passed, or when Congress sessions resume on April 11.

"To speculate on the timetable, form and substance of Charter change now is therefore only counterproductive," Claudio said.

2 Europeans rescued off Boracay

TWO EUROPEANS vacationing on Boracay island in Aklan were rescued after their small sailboat capsized when it was swamped by waves on Wednesday afternoon.

A passing vessel spotted 47-year-old German national Holger Berlet and 41-year-old Swiss national Stephan Joller and plucked them out of the water after they drifted for two hours.

The Coast Guard said the two tourists rented the two-seater boat on Wednesday to sail on the waters off Boracay, a popular tourist destination famed for its beaches. But the water became rough and at around 3 p.m. a wave overturned the boat and knocked the two into the water.

The two tourists had been drifting for two hours on the waters off the western portion of the island when they were spotted by the M/V Maria Felisa, a roll-on, roll-off vessel bound for Roxas in Mindoro.

They were taken aboard and later brought back to Boracay, where they were reported to be in good condition. They suffered no serious injuries, said Coast Guard spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo.

The island had been hosting a steady stream of foreign tourists after tsunamis swamped South Asian countries and ravaged beach resorts a day after Christmas, leaving hundreds of thousands of people dead.

Leila Salaverria

Arrest warrant out for GMA foe

By Philip C. Tubeza

LINDA Olaguer-Montayre, a staunch critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is facing arrest in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the government days before her inauguration for a fresh six-year term last June 30.

The arrest order, issued on Jan. 3 by Quezon City Judge Maria Theresa de la Torre-Yadao, sought the apprehension of Montayre on charges of rebellion filed against her by the Department of Justice last September. Rebellion is a nonbailable offense.

The copy of the arrest order was released to the media only yesterday by government prosecutors.

Montayre, a former nun and secretary general of the Philippine Consultative Assembly, was allegedly one of the brains behind the plot to thwart Ms Arroyo's inauguration last year through bombings and assassinations of Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose De Venecia.

State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said the alleged plot was uncovered in the last week of June after bombs were found before they were detonated at the Department of Interior and Local Government building in Quezon City, the Department of Defense building in Camp Aguinaldo, and the Santuario de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park, Makati City.

More credible witnesses

Velasco said the case against Montayre was based on sworn statements of lawyer Roberto Camarista, William B. Ramos and Wilfredo Diamante, who were earlier charged with rebellion. The DOJ wanted them to turn state witnesses.

"A clear analysis of the evidence presented by all parties shows that the allegations of respondents Camarista, Ramos and Diamante are more credible and logical than the bare denials of respondent Montayre," Velasco said.

In his signed affidavit, Camarista claimed that it was Montayre who "actually planned, directed and provided logistical means" to ensure that the plot was successful.





Correction

'Top cops protecting ex-NBI agent'

Ranking PNP officer

God's gift to women

Off-limits

False arrest

Ehem! 'Saints' . . .

METRO

P55,979,298.90

P100,000.00

NBI swoops down on alleged sex den inside posh Manila hotel

Where's our raise, employees ask mayor

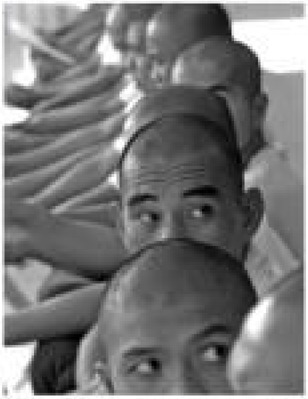
Drugs threaten Metro high schools



PHONE PALS
A boy does stretch exercises while waiting for his companion to place her call.

3 out of 17 in Metro

Python springs surprise



BALD VENTURE
Bald-headed police recruits wait for the next training program in Camp Crame

C5-Kalayaan now open to motorists

Trader resists robbers, shot dead

DIPLOMATIC PUSH

Romulo in Tokyo to plead case of RP entertainers

Protesters picket Malaysian Embassy

Ceasefire monitors optimistic about peace talks

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

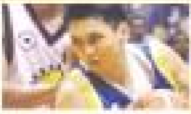
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2005

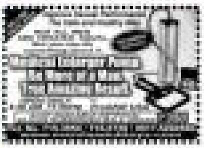
SPORTS



What's Inside







Jewels glow, tie P'masters



COMPTON: Leader by example

Guidelines up for SEAG fund

Pope recovering well, says top Vatican official

Bouncing back

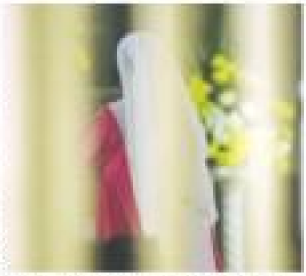
Worldwide well-wishers

Unavoidable factors

No cause for alarm

Strenuous pace

Filipinos urged to pray for Pope's recovery



Credit rating cut ruled out

Warning

Inadequate

Strong signal

Gov't warned of tax revolt

9 survivors rescued 38 days after tsunami on remote island

No hugging, tears

How to make fire

Differing death tolls

Supreme Court Doctrines

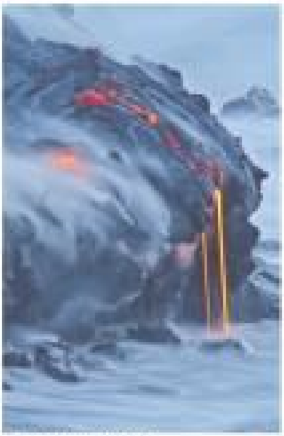
The Daily Gospel

DEATH PENALTY IN MALAYSIA

23 Pinoys executed in 24 years

The WORLD

Sunni clerics brand Iraq poll illegitimate



FIRE-BREATHING ISLAND

Chechen reb leader orders ceasefire

New report on oil-for-food program harsh on UN staff

Refugees, disease, water, food shortages to result from global warming, says meet

Georgia's prime minister found dead



BUT IS IT SNATCH-PROOF?

Court orders DNA test on tsunami baby



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Dancing…

EDITORIALS

…In the dark



Cancel franchises of striking buses, jeepneys

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Burying 'people power' at Tienanmen

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

Exceptional growth

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Pilgrimages of faith and reason

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

A triumph of reason

Hajj

Two pilgrimages

Of ceasefires and civilians

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

Revenues and expenditures of the Aguinaldo gov't

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Santiago wrong on Picop

[illegible]

LETTERS

A grand salute to the INC chief

[illegible]

On VAT hike

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

[illegible]

Across the NATION

Scion, bar owner nabbed for kidnap

₱10M in seized logs disappear from DENR

Vice mayor's slay worries Laoag execs

Ginebra goes for 3-0; TNT stays confident

Asi lawyer files contempt rap vs Eala



'Decide everything on the hardcourt'



EALA

Praise and farce



SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Star Sports showing Spurs versus Lakers

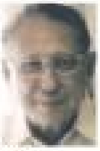
Puerto Galera posts hike in tourist arrivals

Another task force gov's answer to quarry mess

Ecija city beats record in longest sausage line



German in Boracay slayings says he's not hiding, fleeing



1st gov of Biliran province dies; 70

Ababa hangs on to 3-shot margin



[illegible]

By [illegible]

CANLUBANG, Laguna—[illegible] Ababa survived a [illegible] day at Canlubang's North course, using an overnight cushion to stay on top of the National Caddies Open after three rounds yesterday.

[illegible]



3 regions field nat'l meet bets

THREE regions have submitted their representatives for the National Students Basketball Championships [illegible]

[illegible]



LIM

[illegible]

Plug VAT loopholes first, says House think tank

By Cynthia D. Balana

[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]

Bush applauded 61 times in 53 minutes

[illegible]

Rice rations yield '100-percent class attendance, weight gain'

[illegible]

We passed tax bills, where's the pork? solon demands

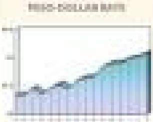
[illegible]



BUSINESS

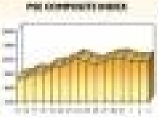
Massive clean-up of old mine sites set

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.53% higher



Gov't lauds 'new breed' of mining companies

Globe Telecom earmarks P8.8B for shares buyback program

Foreign investors oversubscribe Semirara shares

New VAT, new Customs commissioner

COMMENTARY

Massive clean-up of old mine sites set

Piltel wants NTC to stop Sun's 24/7

By Clarissa S. Batino

[illegible]

Goodbye, Revo

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

[illegible]

BMW puzzler

[illegible]

Money-go-round

[illegible]

Heard through the grapevine

[illegible]

California firm acquires RP call center for ₱200M

By Rosmel W. Domingo

[illegible]

[illegible]

Editor: [illegible]

LIFESTYLE

'Glamazons' redefine sexy

LIFE-STYLED



Thelma Sioson San Juan



SUPERMODEL material Maria Sharapova

Fashion gets a good workout in tennis, with Sharapova and company bringing allure and chic to sweat

[illegible]

Fashion orbit

[illegible]

Varied styles

[illegible]



SERENA 2005 Nike mesh is another proof of fabric technology and design.



SERENA: [illegible]



Top tips

Try a little boho

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

STYLE-MEISTERS the world over always have something to say about what's in and out for each fashion season. According to Harper's Bazaar, for example, Spring 2005 is all about color, especially turquoise and coral, animal prints or safari-style, wedges, bangles and more metallics.

> Think gypsy or ethnic flair and you'll get what this chic trend is all about



Skirting the issue





Boho touch

Bags and more to crow about in the Year of the Rooster



Functional sculpture



BAGS by Bea Valdes















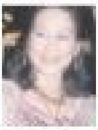
Parties that sate the wildest party desire

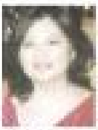
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH













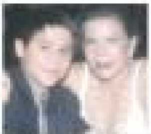






















Glamming up Chinoys



Peter Lim, Jing Chua and Jerome Ang are at the forefront of couture for Filipino-Chinese women



Missing the mark



Cost-conscious

Years in business



Bags to riches











Villareal bags give shoe chicks a reason to turn into bag babes





Glamour at Tiffany's

A book presents the iconic American fashion era through the glittering prism of the jewelry great

